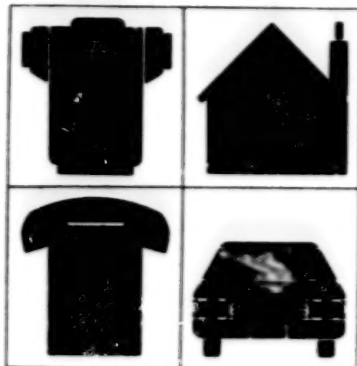


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Consumer Expenditure Survey: Quarterly Data from the Interview Survey



Second quarter 1996
U.S. Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics

Report 916

CONTIN

This report presents selected expenditure data classified by different types of consumer units for the second quarter of 1996 from the Interview component of the Consumer Expenditure Survey.¹ Comparisons with the second quarter of previous years are made for all consumer units (See table A.) This report also includes selected vehicle ownership information, showing Consumer Expenditure Interview Survey data sorted by quintiles of before tax income of the consumer unit.

Comparisons between automobile and truck ownership. The popularity of minivans and sport utility vehicles has led to a boom in truck (including pick-up trucks, vans, minivans, and sport utility vehicles) ownership. All quintiles of income have shown an increase in the percent owning trucks with an overall average increase of 11 percent over the 1980-94 period. On average, about 1 consumer unit in 3 owned a truck in 1980. By 1994, nearly half of all consumer units owned a truck.

The truck was once considered a vehicle for the working classes, with utility more important than style or comfort. In recent years, however, trucks have become luxury items, with the largest increase in truck ownership occurring in the

higher income quintiles. Truck purchases have increased at a faster rate than auto purchases. All but the lowest income quintile show a reduction in the percent of consumer units owning at least one automobile.

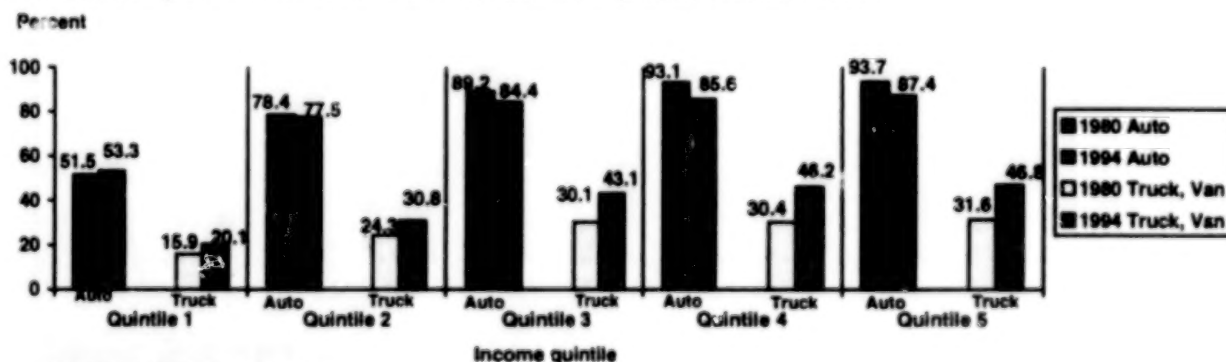
From 1980 to 1994, truck ownership increased by more than 15 percent for the 4th and 5th quintiles. Meanwhile, automobile ownership decreased for the 4th and 5th quintiles by 8 percent and 6 percent, respectively, demonstrating a substitution of trucks for automobiles among these higher income quintiles. However, the substitution of trucks and vans for cars does not appear to apply to the lowest quintile, since automobile ownership increased 2 percent along with an increase of 3 percent for truck ownership.

The 2nd and 3rd quintiles show a slight drop in automobile ownership—1 percent and 5 percent, respectively. The trend of more truck ownership for higher incomes appears also in the 2nd and 3rd quintiles, since truck ownership increased 7 percent for quintile 2 and 13 percent for quintile 3.

The average number of vehicles owned shows a similar trend during 1980 to 1994. For the lowest quintile, the average number of automobiles owned grew by 11 percent, with a comparable rise in truck ownership of 15 percent. For the highest quintile, the average number of automobiles owned fell by 17 percent, while the average number of trucks owned grew by 54 percent. The popularity of minivans and sport utility vehicles explains some of the shift to truck ownership.

¹ Estimates of quarterly expenditures are less reliable than annual estimates because of the smaller number of observations per quarter.

Percent ownership of automobiles and trucks, by income quintile, 1980 and 1994



SOURCE: CE Interview Survey

ga 98-015148

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Table A. Selected average quarterly annualized expenditures¹ of consumer units, CE Interview survey, second quarters, 1990-96

Item	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Total expenditures	\$26,603	\$27,877	\$28,602	\$28,619	\$30,357	\$30,451	\$31,522
Food	4,390	4,460	4,383	4,386	4,529	4,625	4,720
At home	3,215	3,315	3,244	3,233	3,336	3,396	3,483
Away from home	1,174	1,145	1,139	1,153	1,193	1,129	1,237
Housing ²	7,931	8,318	8,947	8,928	9,281	9,615	9,869
Shelter ²	4,705	5,073	5,523	5,432	5,585	5,960	6,018
Owned	2,673	3,266	3,423	3,405	3,441	3,817	3,744
Rented	1,553	1,544	1,786	1,695	1,785	1,795	1,879
Other lodging ²	479	264	313	332	359	348	395
Utilities, fuels, and public services	1,746	1,868	1,876	1,968	2,075	2,065	2,215
Housefurnishings and operations	1,479	1,377	1,548	1,528	1,622	1,590	1,636
Apparel and services	1,219	1,209	1,231	1,145	1,200	1,170	1,192
Transportation	5,237	5,351	5,540	5,555	6,535	5,908	6,482
Vehicle purchases	2,319	2,359	2,524	2,433	3,298	2,522	2,885
Gasoline and motor oil	1,016	1,023	991	970	983	1,044	1,111
Other	1,418	1,969	2,025	2,152	2,254	2,342	2,486
Health care	1,442	1,638	1,521	1,596	1,682	1,612	1,614
Entertainment	1,370	1,311	1,449	1,418	1,516	1,542	1,577
All other expenses ³	5,014	5,591	5,532	5,592	5,613	5,980	6,069

See footnotes at end of table 3.

Table 1. Quintiles of income before taxes: Average quarterly expenditures¹ of all consumer units, CE Interview survey, second quarter, 1996

Item	All consumer units	Complete reporting of income						Incomplete reporting of income
		Total complete reporting	Lowest 20 percent	Second 20 percent	Third 20 percent	Fourth 20 percent	Highest 20 percent	
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	103,457	81,338	16,230	16,263	16,273	16,274	16,297	22,120
Number of sample units	5,318	4,203	815	830	841	838	879	1,116
Consumer unit characteristics:								
Income before taxes ⁴	\$38,226	\$38,226	\$6,876	\$16,373	\$28,203	\$46,341	\$93,161	(4)
Average number of persons	2.6	2.5	1.8	2.3	2.5	2.9	3.1	2.6
Age of reference person	48.1	48.1	52.5	52.5	46.6	44.0	44.7	47.9
Number of:								
Earners	1.3	1.3	.6	.9	1.3	1.6	2.1	1.3
Vehicles	1.9	1.9	1.0	1.4	1.9	2.5	2.8	1.7
Children under 18 .....	.7	.7	.5	.6	.7	.9	.9	.7
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.4	.6	.3	.2	.1	.3
Total expenditures	\$31,522	\$33,064	\$15,477	\$20,839	\$27,992	\$38,877	\$62,037	\$25,852
Food	4,720	4,719	2,945	3,583	4,282	5,370	7,404	4,727
Housing	9,869	9,918	5,395	6,662	8,628	11,308	17,569	9,689
Shelter	6,018	6,055	3,234	3,929	5,096	6,946	11,051	5,882
Owned	3,744	3,768	1,126	1,744	2,495	4,744	8,715	3,659
Rented	1,879	1,873	1,919	2,024	2,318	1,795	1,310	1,899
Other lodging	395	414	190	161	283	407	1,027	325
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,215	2,220	1,566	1,848	2,078	2,540	3,066	2,197
Housefurnishings and operations	1,636	1,643	595	884	1,455	1,822	3,451	1,609
Apparel and services	1,192	1,224	511	680	960	1,513	2,454	1,075
Transportation	6,482	6,836	2,867	4,419	6,028	8,039	12,803	5,180
Gasoline and motor oil	1,111	1,136	557	782	1,100	1,465	1,773	1,019
Other	5,371	5,700	2,311	3,637	4,928	6,574	11,031	4,161
Health care	1,614	1,666	995	1,675	1,689	1,844	2,124	1,423
Entertainment	1,577	1,659	594	779	1,519	2,288	3,108	1,274
All other expenses ³	6,069	7,044	2,170	3,043	4,887	8,515	16,574	2,485

See footnotes at end of table 3.

Table 2. Age of reference person: Average quarterly expenditures¹ of all consumer units, CE Interview survey, second quarter, 1996

Item	All consumer units	Under 25	25-44	45-64	65 and over
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	103,457	6,619	43,449	31,612	21,776
Number of sample units	5,318	343	2,254	1,598	1,123
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes ⁴	\$38,226	\$16,340	\$43,875	\$47,262	\$21,893
Average number of persons	2.6	1.9	3.0	2.6	1.7
Age of reference person	48.1	21.7	35.1	53.1	74.7
Number of:					
Earners	1.3	1.2	1.6	1.6	.4
Vehicles	1.9	1.1	1.9	2.3	1.4
Children under 18 .....	.7	.5	1.2	.4	.1
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	(5)	(5)	.1	1.3
Total expenditures	\$31,522	\$18,630	\$34,171	\$36,432	\$23,028
Food	4,720	2,991	5,115	5,328	3,577
Housing	9,869	5,530	11,129	10,681	7,493
Shelter	6,018	3,689	7,012	6,474	4,080
Owned	3,744	509	4,210	4,575	2,594
Rented	1,879	3,097	2,514	1,368	980
Other lodging	395	84	288	531	506
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,215	1,121	2,243	2,553	2,003
Housefurnishings and operations	1,636	720	1,874	1,654	1,410
Apparel and services	1,192	863	1,375	1,367	675
Transportation	6,482	5,150	6,889	8,013	3,849
Gasoline and motor oil	1,111	732	1,217	1,340	681
Other	5,371	4,419	5,672	6,673	3,168
Health care	1,614	375	1,192	1,789	2,578
Entertainment	1,577	1,023	1,878	1,571	1,152
All other expenses ³	6,069	2,697	6,595	7,682	3,704

See footnotes at end of table 3.

Table 3. Region of residence: Average quarterly expenditures¹ of all consumer units, CE Interview survey, second quarter, 1996

Item	All consumer units	Northeast	Midwest	South	West
Number of consumer units (in thousands)	103,457	19,973	24,930	36,016	22,539
Number of sample units	5,318	1,040	1,388	1,697	1,193
Consumer unit characteristics:					
Income before taxes ⁴	\$38,226	\$40,086	\$39,061	\$36,058	\$39,244
Average number of persons	2.6	2.6	2.5	2.6	2.6
Age of reference person	48.1	48.7	49.0	48.2	46.2
Number of:					
Earners	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.3
Vehicles	1.9	1.5	2.1	1.9	1.9
Children under 18 .....	.7	.7	.7	.7	.7
Persons 65 and over .....	.3	.3	.3	.3	.3
Total expenditures	\$31,522	\$31,484	\$30,572	\$31,113	\$33,259
Food	4,720	4,979	4,627	4,499	4,948
Housing	9,869	10,883	9,340	8,970	10,991
Shelter	6,018	7,143	5,498	4,930	7,334
Owned	3,744	4,311	3,620	3,171	4,297
Rented	1,879	2,373	1,447	1,428	2,637
Other lodging	395	459	431	331	400
Utilities, fuels, and public services	2,215	2,284	2,267	2,321	1,928
Housefurnishings and operations	1,636	1,456	1,575	1,719	1,729
Apparel and services	1,192	1,221	1,167	1,183	1,210
Transportation	6,482	5,836	6,048	7,175	6,426
Gasoline and motor oil	1,111	908	1,132	1,192	1,136
Other	5,371	4,927	4,916	5,983	5,289
Health care	1,614	1,512	1,617	1,791	1,416
Entertainment	1,577	1,415	1,490	1,531	1,888
All other expenses ³	6,069	5,639	6,283	5,965	6,380

¹ Expenditures are estimates for a particular quarter presented at annual rates. (Values are multiplied by 4.)

² The item "expenses for other properties" has been included in miscellaneous expenditures since 1991. Prior to 1991 this item was included in shelter and housing.

³ Includes alcoholic beverages, reading, education, tobacco, miscellaneous expenditures, personal care, cash contributions, and personal insurance and pensions.

⁴ Income values are derived from "complete reporters" only; see technical notes.

⁵ Value less than 0.05.

Technical Notes

Data in this report are from the Interview portion of the Consumer Expenditure Survey, conducted by the Bureau of the Census for the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This survey consists of two components: (1) a diary or recordkeeping survey completed by respondents for 2 consecutive 1-week periods, and (2) an interview survey in which the expenditures of consumer units are obtained in five interviews conducted every 3 months. Data are collected in independent samples of consumer units that are representative of the United States population. The Interview sample, selected on a rotating panel basis, consists of approximately 5,000 consumer units each quarter.

The Interview survey data, which covers approximately 95 percent of all expenditures, include large periodical expenditures, such as property, automobiles, and major appliances, and expenditures that occur on a regular basis, such as rent, utility payments, or insurance premiums.

There are limitations to these data which should be mentioned. First, for some analytical uses, the data should be seasonally adjusted. In the absence of computed adjustment factors, comparisons may be made with the same quarter of the previous (or earlier) year. Second, for infrequently purchased items there are fewer reports in a quarter than there are for a year. In order to obtain statistically reliable estimates, a sufficient level of reporting is required. Therefore, tables based on quarterly data show less detail than those based on annual data. In addition, quarterly data tend to be more volatile than annual data.

Brief definitions

Consumer unit. (1) All members of a particular household who are related by blood, marriage, adoption, or other legal arrangements; (2) a person living alone or sharing a household with others or renting a room in a private home or lodge-

ing house or in permanent living quarters in a hotel or motel, but who is financially independent; or (3) two or more persons living together who share responsibility for at least two out of the three major types of expenses—food, housing, and other living expenses. (The terms "household" or "consumer" may also be used for consumer unit.)

Complete income reporters. In general, a complete income reporter is a respondent who provided values for at least one of the major sources of its income, such as wages and salaries, self-employment income, and Social Security income. (A complete income reporter may or may not provide a full accounting of all income from all sources.)

Total expenditures. These are the transaction costs, including excise and sales taxes, of goods and services acquired during the interview period. Averages include expenditures for gifts and contributions as well as payments for pensions and personal insurance.

Quintiles of income before taxes. Complete income reporters are ranked in ascending order, according to the level of total before-tax income reported by the consumer unit. The ranking is then divided into five equal groups. Incomplete income reporters are not ranked and are shown separately.

Information in this report is available to sensory impaired individuals. Voice phone: (202) 606-7828; TDD phone (202) 606-5879; TDD message referral phone: 1-800-326-2577.

For further information, contact Tom Rubey, Division of Consumer Expenditure Surveys, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Room 3985, 2 Massachusetts Avenue, NE., Washington, DC 20212-0001. Telephone: (202) 606-6900.

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